CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1.(Currently Amended) Method of transporting packets between an access interface of a subscriber installation and a concentrating router of a shared network, comprising the steps of:

carrying out, at the access interface, control operations on streams of packets transmitted to the concentrating router, within the framework of a contract between the subscriber and a manager of the shared network, and

after having carried out the control operations concerning a packet to be transmitted, transmitting said packet from the access interface to the concentrating router, each packet being transmitted with a signature based on a secret shared with the concentrating router, authenticating that the packet has been subjected to the control operations.

2.(Previously Presented)   Method according to claim 1, wherein the signature consists of a code word added to the content of the packet.

3.(Previously Presented) Method according to claim 2, wherein said code word is calculated by [a technique of] hashing at least part of a content of the packet, involving the shared secret.

4.(Previously Presented)   Method according to claim 1, wherein the signature consists of an enciphering of a content of the packet by means of a private key forming said shared

secret.

5.(Currently Amended)   Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an obtaining of the signature and at least some of the control operations are carried out within a single integrated circuit, without physical access immediately upstream of <u>a module of the integrated circuit adapted to obtain</u> ~~the obtaining of~~ the signature.

6. (Currently Amended)   Access interface for linking an access router of a subscriber installation to a concentrating router of a shared network, comprising:

means for controlling streams of packets transmitted to the concentrating router, within the framework of a contract between the subscriber and a manager of the shared network, and

signature means receiving the packets delivered by the stream control means and producing signed packets transmitted to the concentrating router, each <u>transmitted</u> packet being signed and each signed packet comprising a signature based on a secret shared with the concentrating router, authenticating that the packet has been subjected to the stream control means.

7.(Previously Presented)   Interface according to claim 6, wherein the signature consists of a code word added to the content of the packet.

8. (Previously Presented)   Interface according to claim 7, wherein the signature means include means for calculating said code word by hashing at least part of a content of the packet, involving the shared secret.

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9.(Previously Presented)   Interface according to claim 6, wherein the signature consists of an enciphering of a content of the packet by means of a private key forming said shared secret.

10.(Previously Presented)   Interface according to claim 6, wherein the signature means and at least part of the stream control means belong to a single integrated circuit, without physical access between the stream control means and the signature means. --